

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office action dated April 4, 2005. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 20-29 have been canceled without prejudice. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the title. The title has been amended accordingly. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, claim 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,788,966 to Kenan et al. (hereinafter Kenan).

Kenan is directed to a medical instrument for detecting disorders of the skin. FIG. 4 depicts a PCB substrate 150 having conductive lines 160 formed thereon. There is no intermediate layer that is mounted on the substrate (PCB) and supports the conductive lines. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Kenan of a layer that extends beyond the substrate and that the conductive lines extend beyond a projection portion of such a layer. The structure of Kenan is relied upon by the Examiner to reject independent claims 1 and 11 of the present invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In the first instance, the present claims are directed to a nanoprobe. The Examiner has failed to give this patentable weight; however, it is pointed out that the present invention is

used in a completely different environment in a completely different way from the apparatus of Kenan. Further, Kenan fails to disclose or suggest a substrate having a layer formed thereon, the layer forming a projected portion and a plurality of conductive lines adhered to the projected portion and further extending beyond an end of the projected portion by a distance to form contact points, wherein the lines are connected to material of the projected portion to provide stiffness and the contact points provide flexibility during use.

The Examiner stated that the insulating substrate 150 teaches the substrate and layer as recited in the present claims 1 and 11. This is not the case. An additional layer is provided between the substrate and the conductive lines and forms a projected portion to provide stiffness during use. Kenan fails to teach or suggest at least this.

Claim 1, now recites: a nanoprobe comprising a substrate having a layer formed thereon, the layer forming a projected portion and a plurality of conductive lines adhered to the projected portion and further extending beyond an end of the projected portion by a distance to form contact points, wherein the lines are connected to material of the projected portion to provide stiffness and the contact points provide flexibility during use.

Turning to FIG. 2 of the present disclosure, the layer 17 is formed on the substrate 14 and the layer 17 extends past (by length L) the substrate 14. The layer 17 forms a projected portion 16. The layer 17 supports the lines 12 and the lines 12 extend past the layer 17 by a distance 19. This structure is not disclosed or suggested by Kenan and is clearly set forth in the present claims.

Some confusion may have occurred regarding the phrasing in claim 1. Claim 1 has

therefore been amended to clarify the claim. Claim 11 includes, *inter alia*, a substrate, a dielectric layer and conductive lines as described above. Since Kenan fails to disclose or suggest the layer in claim 1 or the dielectric layer in claim 11, all claims now pending in the case are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least this reason. In addition, Kenan fails to disclose or suggest, among other things, that the layer forms a projected portion to provide stiffness as set forth in claims 1 and 11.

By the Office Action, claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenan in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0224627 to Kitazume et al. (hereinafter Kitazume).

By the Office Action, claims 4 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,649,516 to Asakawa et al. (hereinafter Asakawa).

By the Office Action, claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenan in view of Japanese Publication No. JP 04196428 A to Sudo (hereinafter Sudo).

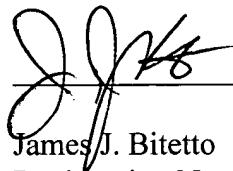
Each of Kitazume, Asakawa, and/or Sudo, taken singly or in combination, fail to cure the deficiencies of Kenan as set forth above. Therefore, claims 1-19 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of claims 7 and 16 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is

respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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James J. Bitetto
Registration No. 40,513

Mailing Address:

**KEUSEY, TUTUNJIAN & BITETTO, P.C.
14 Vanderventer Avenue, Suite 128
Port Washington, NY 11050
Tel: (516) 883-3868
Fax: (516) 883-3869**